

Appl. No. 10/708,406
Response Dated July 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated March 15, 2006

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application. Please add new claims 36–38, as follows:

1. (Original) A method for drilling at least one wellbore from an offsite location, the at least one wellbore located at a wellsite having a drilling rig with a downhole drilling tool suspended therefrom, comprising:
selectively advancing the downhole drilling tool into the earth to form the at least one wellbore,
the downhole drilling tool operated according to a wellsite setup;
collecting wellsite parameters from a plurality of sensors positioned about the wellsite;
transmitting at least a portion of the wellsite parameters to an offsite control center;
performing an analysis of the wellsite parameters; and
automatically adjusting the wellsite set up from the offsite center based on the analysis of the wellsite parameters.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising manually adjusting the wellsite setup at the wellsite.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically adjusting the wellsite setup at the wellsite.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the automatic adjustments are made by one of a surface control unit, a downhole control unit and combinations thereof.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the sensors are positioned about one of a surface system of the wellsite, a downhole system of the wellsite, the wellbore and an adjacent formation and combinations thereof.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing an offsite communication link between the offsite control center and the wellsite.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the offsite communication link is between the offsite control center and a surface control unit at the wellsite.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising establishing an onsite communication link between the surface control unit and one of a surface system of the wellsite, a downhole system of the wellsite, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the offsite communication link is between the offsite control center and the downhole tool.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a wellsite communication link between one or more wellsites.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising deploying a downhole tool into the wellbore.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein at least a portion of the sensors are positioned about the downhole tool.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the drilling tool is removed prior to deploying the downhole tool, and reinserted after the removal of the downhole tool.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the downhole tool is one of a wireline tool, a coiled tubing tool, a rapid formation tester tool, an electromagnetic tool and combinations thereof.

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15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the parameters are transmitted via one of satellite, cable, telecommunication lines, internet, radio, microwaves and combinations thereof.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting and adjusting steps are performed in real time.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting and adjusting steps are performed at intervals.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the drilling tool is one of a measurement while drilling tool, a logging while drilling tool, a wireline drilling tool, a casing drilling tool and combinations thereof.

19. (Original) A system for drilling a wellbore from an offsite location, comprising:
at least one wellsite, comprising:

a drilling assembly comprising a drilling tool suspended from a rig via a drill string, the drilling tool having a bit at a downhole end thereof adapted to advance into the earth to form the wellbore;

a plurality of sensors disposed about the at least one wellsite, the sensors adapted to collect wellsite parameters; and

a wellsite transceiver for sending signals from and receiving signals at the at least one wellsite;

an offsite control center, comprising:

an offsite transceiver for sending signals from and receiving signals at the offsite location;

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an offsite processor adapted to generate an analysis of the wellsite parameters and make decisions in response thereto; and
an offsite controller adapted to automatically adjust the wellsite setup according to the analysis of the wellsite parameters; and
an offsite communication link between the wellsite and offsite transceivers for passing signals therebetween.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the wellsite further comprising a processor adapted to analyze the wellsite parameters and make decisions in response thereto.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the wellsite further comprises a surface control unit adapted to adjust the wellsite setup.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the surface control automatically adjusts the wellsite setup.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the surface control unit manually adjusts the wellsite setup.

24. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the wellsite further comprises a surface system and a downhole system, the downhole drilling tool forming at least a portion of the downhole system.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising a surface communication link between the surface system and the downhole system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the wellsite transceiver is positioned at one of the surface system, the downhole system and combinations thereof.

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27. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the offsite center further comprises at least one monitor for displaying the wellsite parameters.

28. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a communication link between transceivers at one or more wellsites for passing signals therebetween.

29. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the offsite communication link comprises one of satellite, cable, telecommunication lines, internet, radio, microwaves and combinations thereof.

30. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the at least one wellsite further comprises a downhole tool positionable in the wellbore, at least a portion of the sensors disposed about the downhole tool.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the downhole tool is one of a wireline tool, a coiled tubing tool, a rapid formation tester tool, an electromagnetic tool and combinations thereof.

32. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the drilling tool is one of a measurement while drilling tool, a logging while drilling tool, a wireline drilling tool, a casing drilling tool and combinations thereof.

33. (Original) A method for drilling at least one wellbore at a wellsite from an offsite location, comprising:

selectively operating at least one drilling tool according to a wellsite setup to form the at least one wellbore;

collecting wellsite parameters from a plurality of sensors positioned about the at least one wellsite;

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selectively adjusting the wellsite setup at the wellsite via a wellsite control unit;
transmitting at least a portion of the wellsite parameters from the wellsite to an offsite control center;
automatically adjusting the wellsite setup at the offsite control center based on an analysis of the wellsite parameters.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising manually adjusting the wellsite setup at the wellsite.

35. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising automatically adjusting the wellsite setup at the wellsite.

36. (New) A method for drilling at least one wellbore from an offsite location, the at least one wellbore located at a wellsite having a drilling rig with a downhole drilling tool suspended therefrom, comprising:
selectively advancing the downhole drilling tool into the earth to form the at least one wellbore,
the downhole drilling tool operated according to a wellsite setup;
collecting wellsite parameters from a plurality of sensors positioned about the wellsite;
transmitting at least a portion of the wellsite parameters to an offsite control center;
performing an analysis of the wellsite parameters;
determining a drilling command at the offsite control center in response to the wellsite parameters;
transmitting the drilling command from the offsite control center to the downhole drilling tool;
and
implementing the drilling command at the downhole drilling tool.

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37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein transmitting the drilling command from the offsite control center to the downhole drilling tool comprises:

transmitting the drilling command from the offsite control center to a surface control unit at the wellsite; and

automatically transmitting the drilling command from the surface control unit to the downhole drilling tool.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein implementing the drilling command comprises changing the wellsite setup.